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CIA Recruiters Stir Protest

By IAN RUBIN

CIA recruitment on campus for the first time in about 15 years this morning drew an angry reaction from a dozen Wesleyan students.

Most students said they hoped to send a message to the school's Career Resource Center, sponsors of all interviews on campus.

"We don't appreciate what they are doing on our campus and object even more strenuously to what the CIA is doing in the name of Americans," said Mary Purpura, one of the protest's organizers.

The protest was confined to the third floor of the center on High Street and was orderly except for one student who had to be restrained from entering the

interview room by security people.

This prompted some to question Wesleyan's legal code when the student was barred from the room without the vote of three members of the five member Student Judicial Board. Two board members said that a meeting was held last night to determine what to do if something like this happened.

Despite the student's second attempt to enter the room he was not ejected from the hallway. The other students remained on the stairwell through the commotion.

Dean Edgar Beckham, who remarked that this was the first time he ever threw a football block, said, "Impact of a morning like this is mixed. Some feel a free-exchange like this is negative and might say, 'They're at it at Wesleyan again.'"

"Others would say its great for people to question things and debate issues," said Beckham.

Despite Beckham's comments he had earlier said that protests were fine until they interfere with the rights of those who want to be interviewed for jobs and

those who want to recruit students.

According to the resource center director, Barbara Jan Wilson, any organization can ask to interview students on campus and will be granted that opportunity as long as students express desire to be interviewed. Sixteen interviews were scheduled throughout today.

One student protester, Carlton Levine, said, "Those students who want to interview can go to Washington. We don't have to be a party to this situation."

The CIA recruiters, Stephen Conn and a woman associate, came from Boston and were unavailable for comment. At one point in the protest, however, when they opened the door to allow a student in to be interviewed, one yelled out, "We are only here to interview."

Conn was supposed to interview at Wesleyan last year but cancelled due to illness.

Early this afternoon two psychology professors David Adams and James Conley joined the protest.